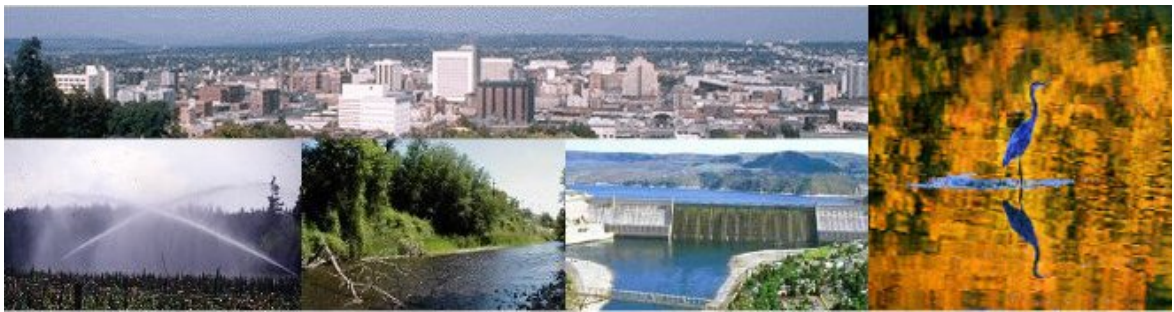


2005 Report to the Legislature

Progress on Watershed Planning and Setting Instream Flows



December 2005

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Progress on Watershed Planning and Setting Instream Flows

**A Report to
the Washington State Legislature
December 2005**

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Publication # 05-11-038

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- D. Description of watershed planning phases**
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Introduction and Background

This report is the second annual report to the legislature on the progress of watershed planning and setting instream flows in Washington. Prepared by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) under state law (RCWs 90.82.043(5) and 90.82.080 (6), this document describes:

- The statutory changes recommended by planning units in county-approved watershed plans.
- The status of state efforts in adopting administrative rules to put instream flows in place.

In addition, the report provides an overview of current watershed planning and instream flow-setting efforts statewide and describes some of the activities and tools to support those efforts. It also provides a glimpse into the future as watershed efforts move beyond the planning phase and into implementation, identifying anticipated watershed needs and Ecology's proposed efforts to address them. Finally, the report describes activities by specific watersheds on watershed planning and instream flow rule development.

General Overview

During the last seven years, there has been significant investment and progress in watershed planning at both the state and local levels. Since the 1998 enactment of the Watershed Planning Act, (ESHB 2514), 45 of the state's 62 watersheds or Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs), voluntarily initiated and have been involved in watershed planning under House Bill 2514. Thirty seven (37) separate watershed planning groups were formed to develop watershed plans for 45 watersheds, with some local groups covering multiple, contiguous watersheds. The local watershed planning groups consist of representatives from county, city, tribal and state governments, as well as local stakeholders including developers, farmers, water purveyors, environmental groups and local citizens. Each planning group is responsible for developing local watershed management plans. As 2005 comes to a close, 15 of those watershed plans have been adopted by county governments, and the first eight of those are starting to be implemented at the local level.

The adoption of 15 watershed plans represents a commitment by no less than 25 boards of county commissioners to work toward improved water supply management. This effort also represents the ongoing involvement and participation of at least nine different Indian tribes, numerous city governments and conservation districts, and countless hours of volunteer time by local citizens and interested parties. A map of watershed planning progress statewide is located in Appendix A.

Of the 15 approved plans, six reached or are near agreement on recommendations for instream flows, and the first instream flow rule based on a local watershed planning group recommendation was adopted in August 2005 (Entiat). Work is underway in the remaining basins to adopt instream flow rules, and eight rules are expected to be proposed in 2006.

Watershed plans have identified strategies to increase water supplies. However, it will not be until the implementation phase and beyond that many of these strategies will come to fruition. In the meantime, planning groups and Ecology are faced with what may seem like irreconcilable requirements: simultaneously recommending instream flows sufficient to protect stream resources, while providing water supplies to meet future domestic needs. Cooperative planning, that is, bringing local interests together with state, tribal and federal interests in an attempt to balance these competing demands seems to hold the most promise for successful resolution of these issues.

Since 1971, the legislature has provided Ecology the authority and guidance to set stream flow levels by rule to protect and preserve “instream” resources including fish, wildlife, recreation, navigation, water quality, watering livestock, and aesthetics (Chapters 90.22, 90.54 and 90.82 RCW).

The term “instream flow” means a base flow under Chapter 90.54 RCW, a minimum flow under Chapter 90.03 or 90.22 RCW, or a minimum instream flow under Chapter 90.82 RCW. The instream flow is a stream flow level set in rule that is needed to protect and preserve fish, wildlife, scenic, aesthetic, recreation, water quality, and other environmental or navigational values. The establishment of an instream flow rule does not affect existing water rights, but has a junior priority date set either by the watershed planning effort or by Chapter 90.54 RCW.

Passage of the Watershed Planning Act authorized local planning groups to address instream flows on a voluntary basis as part of their watershed management plans. The law mandates Ecology to adopt instream flow rules once flow recommendations are submitted by a local planning unit. Lawmakers also provided money to Ecology to adopt instream flow rules in basins where formal watershed planning was not occurring.

In 30 watersheds, local planning units chose to examine stream flows as part of their overall watershed management plans. To date, local planning units have submitted flow recommendations for 11 individual watersheds. Setting instream flows is done by Ecology adopting an administrative rule, tailored for the unique needs and characteristics of each watershed. The rules help ensure that a sufficient amount of water remains in streams for current and future needs, and the ecosystem is protected from further degradation.

Ecology has initiated instream flow rule-making in 11 watersheds, and in two of those watersheds, the Entiat (WRIA 46) and the Stillaguamish (WRIA 45), new flow rules were adopted. Statewide, 20 watersheds now have instream flow-protection rules.

Several watershed planning units and Ecology have explored a wide range of options regarding how to meet future domestic water needs and allow permit-exempt withdrawals of ground water without affecting flows needed to protect instream resources. One approach is to set aside, or reserve, for future human activities, an amount of water that will not be subject to the instream flows set by state rule. This approach was used by Ecology to establish water reserves in the Entiat and Stillaguamish basins, and Ecology has proposed similar amendments to the existing Skagit flow rule.

In the Quilcene Snow watershed (WRIA 17), Ecology is working closely with the planning unit and other local interest groups in the basin to forge a rule that protects fish and provides adequate sources of water for future human uses. This effort builds upon the existing work of local planning units, as well as tribal and state natural resources agencies, local governments and major stakeholders, to adopt rules that:

- Establish instream flow levels;
- Set mechanisms for protecting the flows; and
- Provide provisions for allowing water for future out-of-stream water uses.

Legislative support for the state's HB 2514 watershed planning efforts continues to be significant. The amount of operating funds provided to Ecology to pass through to local governments for watershed grants has increased from \$3.9 million in the 1997-99 biennial budget to \$11.1 million in the current budget. Since 1998, the total amount of operating funds made available by the legislature for this effort has been over \$44 million. Combined with more than \$54 million in capital funding available to both HB 2514 and non-HB 2514 watersheds for improved water management activities, the state's investment total has been more than \$98 million. A summary of funding to support watershed planning and management is provided below. For additional information on the capital budget grant funds, refer to Appendix B.

**Funding provided to Ecology to Support Local Government
Watershed Planning and Management**

| Biennium: | 97-99 | 99-01 | 01-03 | 03-05 | 05-07 |
|---|---------|-------|----------|----------|----------|
| Operating Budget (grant funds available to 2514 watershed groups) | \$3.9 M | \$9 M | \$9.1 M* | \$11.1 M | \$11.1 M |
| Capital Budget (grant funds available to all watersheds) | | | | \$ 28M | \$26 M |

*Reduced from \$11.1M in 2002 supplemental budget

While the investment in developing and implementing watershed plans has already been considerable, even more will be needed in the future to fund all the projects and programs recommended in locally-adopted watershed plans. This is consistent with findings of the Phase 4 Committee that projected implementation needs into the billions of dollars over a 20-year life span (Phase 4 Watershed Plan Implementation Committee – Report to the Legislature, December 2002, Ecology Publication 02-06-023).

It is also consistent with conclusions of the Water Resources Funding Task Force:

“Watershed Plans, many of which are projected for completion within the next three years, are expected to result in widespread and substantial requests for operating and capital funds. The scope and size of water resource capital projects are not clearly defined. However, there is the potential for proposed projects to reach billions of dollars” (2004 Report to the Legislature: Water Resources Administration and Funding Task Force, Ecology Publication 04-11-029, December 2004).

As the 2005-07 biennium begins, we are gaining a better understanding of the types of projects and potential costs associated with implementing these plans. To date, only eight watershed planning efforts have entered the implementation phase; however, by the end of the biennium we may have over three times that number. It is during this phase, which requires completion of a detailed implementation plan, that specific project proposals and estimates of their associated costs may appear. The detailed plans need to:

- Describe and identify a lead agency or agencies for each activity,
- Propose timelines and milestones for project completion,
- Estimate project costs, and
- Identify potential funding sources.

The first of these detailed implementation plans is expected to be completed by January 2006 with the majority still six to 10 months away from finishing their detailed plans.

While our existing picture regarding future implementation costs may not be as accurate as we might like, it is safe to say that the potential costs to implement watershed plan recommendations will far exceed the state's existing budgetary resources. We know, for example, that capital costs associated with storage projects, aquifer recharge and recovery, improving irrigation infrastructure, and investing in reclaimed water facilities alone could well run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Increased funding also will be needed to support recommendations for:

- Ongoing and expanded data collection, analysis, and monitoring;
- Compliance and enforcement; and
- Public outreach and education.

In the current biennium, Ecology estimates that more than \$6.2 million of its \$11.1 million operating budget appropriation will go to local watershed groups to support implementation needs. This includes grants to develop and negotiate detailed implementation plans, agreements and memorandums of understanding, as well as funding for specific "early action" implementation activities, projects and initiatives. Some of the early action activities already identified include:

- Groundwater monitoring and studies
- Additional stream flow gauging, data collection, analysis, and monitoring
- Conducting water storage assessments
- Implementing stream restoration projects
- Setting up trust water banks
- Undertaking design work for irrigation improvement projects
- Developing local/regional water resource data management systems

Of the \$25 million available to watersheds this biennium for capital projects, about \$12 million is provided for acquiring water rights through leases, purchases and donations, as well as for water storage, metering, and water supply improvement projects.

Ecology will be developing its 2007-09 biennial budget proposal during the next six to nine months. To estimate future watershed costs, Ecology will be working closely with local planning units to identify specific budget proposals that support watershed plan implementation across the state.

Watershed Planning

Statewide totals

(as of Nov. 30, 2005)

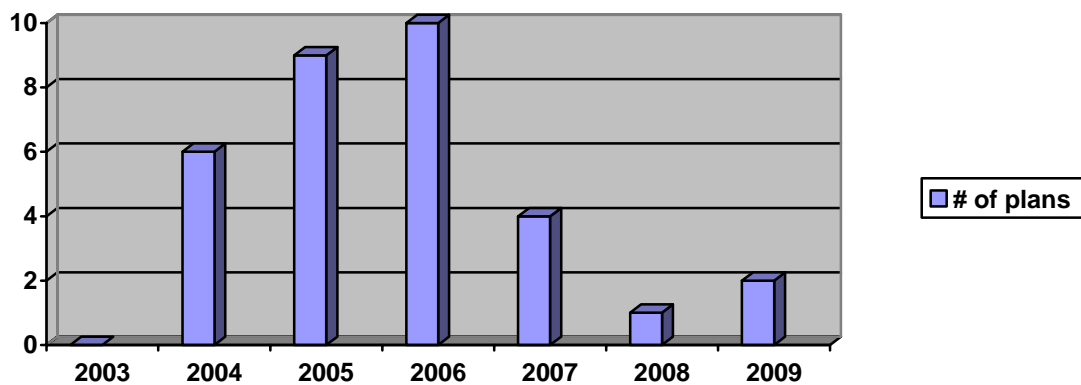
- 45 watersheds have been involved in HB 2514 watershed planning
- 15 watershed plans have been adopted by county governments
- 8 watershed plans have entered Phase 4 implementation
- 25 watersheds could potentially be in implementation phase by the end of the 2005-07 biennium
- 0 watersheds have completed a detailed implementation plan
- 1 HB 2514 watershed in which Ecology has newly adopted an instream flow rule
- 5 watersheds in which HB 2514 planning process was terminated by the planning unit prior to plan approval

Watershed Planning Units in Each Phase of 2514 Watershed Planning*

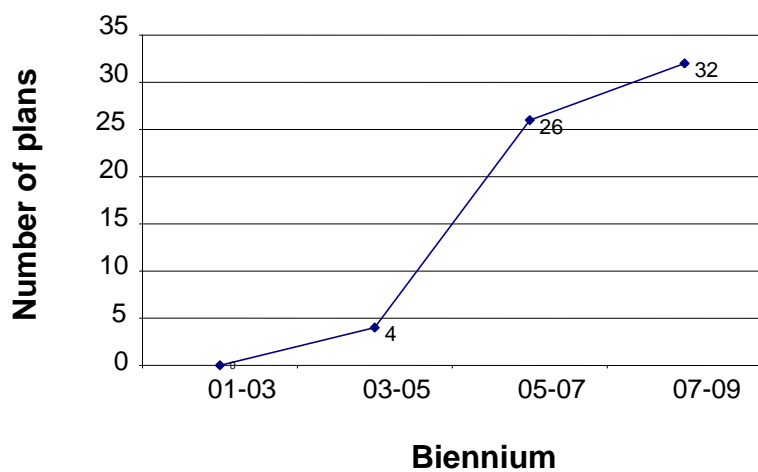
| Phase 1- Organizing | Phase 2 – Assessment | Phase 3- Plan development | Approved by planning units | Adopted by county governments | Phase 4 - Implementation | 2514 process terminated | Total |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|-------|
| 0 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 37 |
| | WRIA 40a WRIA 43 WRIA 49 WRIA 54 | WRIA 14 WRIA 16 WRIA 19 WRIA 20 WRIA 29 WRIA 31 WRIA 34 WRIA 35 WRIA 45 | WRIA 25/26 WRIA 27/28 WRIA 30 WRIA 55/57 | WRIA 1 WRIA 17 WRIA 18 WRIA 32 WRIA 37/38/39 WRIA 48 WRIA 56 | WRIA 2 WRIA 6 WRIA 11 WRIA 22/23 WRIA 44/50 WRIA 46 WRIA 59 WRIA 52 | WRIA 3/4 WRIA 12 WRIA 13 WRIA 15 WRIA 60 | |

*For a listing of all watershed names and numbers, see Appendix C; for an overview of the phases of watershed planning, see Appendix D.

Number of Watershed Plans Completed, or Projected to be Completed by Year



Potential # of Watershed Plans in Implementation Phase



Legislative Recommendations

Statutory Changes

State law (RCW 90.82.043(50)) dictates that by December 1, 2003, and each December 1 thereafter, the Ecology Director “shall report to the appropriate legislative standing committees regarding statutory changes necessary to enable state agency approval or permit decision making needed to implement a plan approved under this chapter.”

Similar to last year’s report, no statutory changes have so far been needed to implement plan recommendations or to enable Ecology’s approval. However, most watershed plans do contain some recommendations for statutory or other policy changes for the legislature’s consideration, particularly to the state Watershed Planning Act, and to the state water code regarding water right relinquishment and the ground water exemption. Ecology generally supports most of the changes recommended to the Watershed Planning Act, and some changes to the state water code to provide more clarity, certainty, and timeliness, but has no specific plans at this time to propose legislation in the 2006 session. Ecology will continue to evaluate these and other recommendations and consult with affected stakeholder groups prior to making specific legislative proposals for changes to the watershed act or the water code.

The following recommendations have been made by one or more watershed planning groups:

Watershed Planning Act (RCW 90.82)

- Allow unspent Phase 2 supplemental grant funds to be applied for and spent in Phase 4 implementation.
- Consider an alternative process for plan approval in the event one initiating government votes not to approve a particular watershed plan.
- Increase the funding limit for Phase 4 implementation.

Water Right Relinquishment (RCW 90.14.160)

- Change the “use it or lose it” statute from five to 20 years for agricultural purposes.
- Change the law to allow an unused portion of an irrigation water right to be “banked” rather than forfeited.
- Allow water conserved through efficiency improvements in irrigation practices to be exempt from relinquishment.

Ground Water Exemption (RCW 90.44.050)

- Consider a reduction in the 5,000 gallons/day withdrawal limit on wells that are exempt from needing a state water right permit.

Water Code (RCW 90.03)

- Amend the state water code so water right fees reflect current processing costs and adequately fund Ecology staff.

New/Other Statutes

- Move water conservancy boards from independent institutions to a part of county government.
- Authorize the creation of local “watershed management districts.”
- Provide legal protection for water rights claims currently in use that were not perfected by 1933.
- Recognize the potential for environmental benefits associated with groundwater recharge and agricultural practices.

Funding Recommendations/Requests to the Legislature

The overarching recommendation from watershed plans is for the legislature is to increase funding to support implementing the specific activities and projects proposed in their plans. This includes funding to maintain a watershed coordinating body, or council, to oversee implementation needs. At this time, it is difficult to provide a reliable estimate of potential costs associated with implementation. However, as the first detailed implementation plans are completed in the coming months, Ecology will have a better sense of estimated needs and will use this information to begin developing its 2007-09 budget proposals.

Other types of funding recommendations to the legislature included:

- Fully funding Ecology’s compliance and enforcement operations.
- Providing Ecology with additional funds for instream flow setting work.
- Allocating funds to provide financial incentives for voluntary water right relinquishment.
- Allocating funds to purchase or lease water saved through irrigation efficiency or conservation.

Other Recommendations to Ecology/Legislature

A number of watershed planning groups described conceptual ideas for policy or legislative changes, but left the work of fully developing the idea into a specific legislative or Ecology proposal to Phase 4 implementation. Some of those conceptual ideas included reforms to Washington water law, such as:

- Revising water spreading and annual consumptive quantity policies,
- Enhancing water banking or water exchanges,
- Eliminating disincentives to water conservation,
- Allowing water storage from and providing a general permit for rainwater catchment systems, such as rain barrels and cisterns,
- Modifying plumbing standards to promote greater conservation and efficiency, and
- Recognizing and authorizing a “pilot program” that would relax provisions of the water code for a defined period depending on meeting certain instream flow standards.

While no specific proposal was put forward, the effect of an initiating government voting not to approve a plan caused other local government members to consider asking the legislature to review the approval process. The primary concern expressed is that a single government can veto a plan, and in effect, nullify all the work and ideas put forth in the plan development process. Some would like the legislature to provide an alternate path forward to support local watershed efforts, plan elements, or proposed projects that have widespread, though not unanimous, local support.

Looking Ahead

Phase 4 Implementation

Currently, eight of the 15 county-adopted watershed plans have officially entered Phase 4 (the implementation phase), and the remainder are not far behind. The intent of Phase 4 is to develop detail regarding the strategies, recommendations, and obligations described in approved plans. A required component of Phase 4 is to complete a detailed implementation plan within one year that describes not only the lead agency for each activity, but also timelines for achieving each strategy, milestones to measure progress, and potential funding sources. The first detailed implementation plan is expected to be completed by the San Juan Planning Unit by January 2006.

Because the conditions, resources, political climate and needs for future water supply are unique to each watershed planning area, the opportunities and recommended strategies for managing water tend to vary considerably from plan to plan. Similarly, costs also will vary, making it difficult to accurately provide estimates for future costs. As detailed implementation plans are completed during the next months, Ecology will get a better sense regarding how much financial support will be needed to implement various watershed recommendations. This will go a long way toward identifying and prioritizing projects as well as estimating implementation costs and timelines.

In general, completed plans are calling for:

- Increased support for more accurate and complete data and monitoring.
- Additional funding to increase compliance and enforcement efforts and timely water right permit decision making (one plan recently filed a formal request to Ecology for a water right adjudication and another is contemplating a similar request).
- Several plans have called for the creation of a “water master” position to ensure that water rights and claims in the basin are being used properly.

Many of the strategies and recommendations focus on better use of existing water supplies and continue to propose new capital projects such as additional funding support for:

- Water supply and infrastructure projects like storage, conservation and reuse.
- Water acquisition to help achieve stream flows.

For a summary of requested workload activities from adopted watershed plans, refer to Appendix E. To see specific plan strategies and recommendations, please refer to individual watershed plans located on either Ecology’s Web site or the Watershed Plan’s Web site.

Walla Walla and Nooksack Initiatives

Two specific implementation efforts have been highlighted in approved watershed plans in the Walla Walla and the Nooksack watersheds – and Ecology is actively engaged in supporting both initiatives. Each watershed planning group expressed a desire to “pilot” an innovative approach for watershed management in their basin. In this approach, local jurisdictions, Ecology, other state agencies, and Indian tribes would explore opportunities to address the unique and distinctive issues in these areas. Through a collaborative process, the parties would design solutions to better manage water resources, tailor stream flow augmentation efforts where needed, and increase water supplies through storage, water reclamation, and other measures to satisfy stream flows and provide water for growth. This may require a different set of policies and legislative changes to resolve problems that might otherwise go unresolved or end up in court. If successful, this proposed innovative approach will help provide tangible progress toward meeting the needs of current and future development while also protecting basin streams.

Ecology’s Water Management Strategy

Ecology is continuing to focus its efforts, staff resources and budget on improving water resource conditions statewide, and providing a water management system that sustains both local communities and the natural systems on which we rely. Ecology will continue to strive to deliver and coordinate its water-related work on a watershed basis that is responsive to community needs and protects stream resources. Other elements critical for a successful water management system include:

- Achieving improved stream flows by adopting instream flow rules, and through protection, restoration and augmentation efforts.
- Clarifying water rights and claims, including tribal and federal rights, with and without undertaking adjudications.
- Providing a systematic approach to developing and funding water storage projects.

Funding for 2005-07

Of the \$11.1 million operating budget for watershed planning in the 2005-07 biennium, Ecology estimates that about \$6.2 million will go toward implementation activities: the majority for coordinating and developing detailed implementation plans, and the balance for projects like stream gauging, instream flow studies, groundwater monitoring, and data management. Of the remaining amount, about \$2.56 million is targeted for ongoing Phase 1-3 plan development grants, \$1.334 million is slated for optional element grants (setting stream flows, water quality, and storage projects), and the balance for direct technical and administrative staff support for watershed planning.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Phase 1- 3 Planning Grants | \$2,561,000 |
| Instream Flow Grants | \$456,000 |
| Water Quality Grants | \$339,000 |
| Storage Assessment Grants | \$539,000 |
| Subtotal | \$3,895,000 |
| Phase 4 Implementation Grants | \$5,085,000 |
| Implementation Projects | \$1,175,200 |
| Subtotal | \$6,260,000 |
| Instream Flow/Tech/Admin Support | <u>\$985,000</u> |
| Total | \$11,140,000 |

Of \$12 million in capital funds, the legislature provided approximately \$3.2 million for specific watershed projects in Normandy Park and the Methow, Yakima-Naches and Dungeness watersheds. The remaining \$8.7 million is available through a competitive grant process, currently underway, for water right acquisition (\$1 million), agricultural water supply (\$2 million), water measuring (\$1.5 million), water storage (\$2 million), conveyance infrastructure (\$2 million) and small grants to watershed councils. Similar to past years, requests for watershed project grant assistance this biennium far exceed the amount of funding available.

Ecology is continuing its efforts to align staff resources and budget consistent with needs and priorities identified in watershed plans and for protection of instream resources. (See table)

Ecology Technical Staff Assistance Provided in Direct Support to 2514 Watershed Planning

| | 97-99 | 99-01 | 01-03 | 03-05 | 05-07 Projected |
|---|------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Ecology FTEs*^ | 12 WS Leads | 14 WS Leads 2 Policy/Grant 2 HG tech support | 14 WS Leads 2 Policy/Grants 2 Flow setting 2 Flow restoration 9 HG tech support | 15 WS Leads 2 Policy/Grants 9 Flow setting 5 Flow restoration 8 HG tech support | 15 WS Leads 2 Policy/Grants 10 Flow setting 5 Flow restoration 10 HG tech support |
| Estimated FTE cost to support watershed planning | \$825,000 | \$3.0M | \$4.9M | \$6.6M | \$7.1M |

* Does not include Administrative support or overhead

^ Includes both new and existing staff resources

WS Lead = Ecology Watershed Lead, senior policy and state caucus coordinator

HG tech support = Water Resources hydrogeologist technical assistance

Ecology also contracts with the departments of Fish and Wildlife and Health to provide technical assistance to watershed planning and assist with instream flow setting and restoration efforts. A portion of the funds for these contracts came through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Other State Agency Technical Assistance to 2514 Watershed Planning

| | 97-99 | 99-01 | 01-03 | 03-05 | 05-07 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| Ecology contracts to DFW and DOH | \$275,000 | \$439,000 | \$524,000 | \$524,000 | \$524,000 |
| SRFB funds to DFW through Ecology for flow setting and restoration | | | | \$596,000 | \$720,000 |

DFW = Department of Fish and Wildlife
DOH = Department of Health
SRFB = Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Preparing for 2007-09

As 2005 comes to a close, the need for implementation funding is just beginning. To date, only a quarter of the 32 remaining active watershed planning efforts have begun identifying specific implementation needs and most of those are still at least six months away from completing their detailed plans. By the end of the biennium, the state may have as many as 26 watersheds requesting implementation support.

Ecology will be preparing its 2007-09 biennial budget in the near future, working closely with watershed planning groups to identify highest priority and specific watershed funding needs. As Ecology develops its budget, the department will be able to provide specific project descriptions and their associated funding needs based on planning unit implementation recommendations.

Instream Flow Progress

Of the 45 watersheds undertaking planning under the Watershed Planning Act, 30 chose to examine instream flows and make recommendations to Ecology to adopt new or to modify existing stream flow rules. Significant progress has been made, including collecting extensive field data on several hundred streams and rivers across the state. This work was done by individual watershed planning units and their consultants, as well as the departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife. It also included involvement of Indian tribes. Numerous stream flow studies using Instream Flow Incremental Method (IFIM), measuring toe-width, and analyses of stream-flow data have been performed. This work forms the scientific foundation for the instream flow recommendations. In addition, more than 120 continuous real-time gauges have been installed by Ecology to provide accurate and timely stream-flow data. These gauges are an important tool for monitoring conditions and protecting existing water rights.

To date, Ecology has received instream flow recommendations from Planning Units for 10 watersheds. The table below shows the rule development progress in those watersheds.

| Water Resource Inventory Area | Rule Development Initiated ¹ | Target Date for Rule Proposal ² | Target Date for Rule Adoption ³ |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Entiat (46) | Initiated 2004 | | Adopted August 2005 |
| Walla Walla (32) | Initiated 2004 | April 2006 | October 2006 |
| Salmon/Washougal (28) | Initiated 2005 | September 2006 | March 2007 |
| Lewis (27) | Initiated 2005 | October 2006 | April 2007 |
| Grays/Elochoman (25) | Initiated 2005 | November 2006 | May 2007 |
| Cowlitz (26) | Initiated 2005 | November 2006 | May 2007 |
| Quilcene/Snow (17) | Initiated 2004 | December 2006 | June 2007 |
| Elwha/Dungeness (18) | Initiated 2004 | February 2007 | August 2007 |
| Moses Coulee (44) | Initiate 2006 | Summer 2007 | Winter 2007-8 |
| Foster (50) | Initiate 2006 | Summer 2007 | Winter 2007-8 |

Ecology has completed or initiated rule-making in 3 watersheds that are not planning under 2514.

- Stillaguamish (WRIA 5) — Rule adopted August 2005
- Skagit (WRIA 4) — Rule amendment proposed October 2005
- Samish (WRIA 3) — Rule-making initiated 2005

¹ = File CR-101

² = File CR-102

³ = File CR-103

See appendices F and G for a map and schedule of rule-making activities.

Public outreach and involvement

Ecology's outreach strategy is based on early, open and ongoing communication with watershed planning groups and interested stakeholder in each watershed involved in rule making. The department talks to key decision-makers in each watershed including elected officials, tribal representatives, realtors, farmers, environmental organizations, the business community and other interested parties. This includes conducting open houses and providing other public venues to identify issues and concerns, and ideas for water management. Ecology's goal is to improve overall understanding of the complex issues and concerns, and develop rules that protect existing water rights and instream resources while providing water for future development.

Watershed Status

WRIA 1 Nooksack



Watershed Planning Phase: Watershed Plan adopted June 7, 2005.

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$766,217

The Nooksack Watershed Plan was adopted by Whatcom County in June 2005. The planning group is preparing to enter Phase 4 Implementation in early 2006. Some of their plan recommendations include: further work on Bertrand and Middle Fork instream flow pilot projects; further exploration of water reclamation and reuse opportunities, water banking, and deep aquifer storage.

Instream Flow Progress

Existing instream flows were set in 1985 (Chapter 173-501 WAC). The planning group has initiated pilot negotiations to address instream flows in the Middle Fork and Bertrand Creek watersheds. After successful processes and methods have been demonstrated in the pilot projects, instream flow assessments will continue in other drainages in WRIA 1, with the goal of recommending amendments to the existing instream flow rule in about five years.

Pilot Project

The planning group is concurrently working through a mediated settlement process to quantify Lummi and Nooksack treaty reserved water rights. The objective is to develop a program in the Nooksack Watershed that encourages local planning groups to find creative, practical solutions to the problem of achieving and protecting instream flows while providing water for out-of-stream uses.

Plan Web site: <http://www.wria1project.wsu.edu>

WRIA 2 San Juan



Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted October 2004

Phase 4 begun October 2004

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$654,231

San Juan County adopted the WRIA 2 Watershed Management Plan and began Phase 4 Implementation in October 2004. Their intent is to complete a detailed implementation plan by January 2006. Some of their plan recommendations include: developing an MOU with Ecology and establishing a local water resource review board to assist in water resource management, conducting ongoing groundwater monitoring and analysis, and developing a policy and general expedited permitting process for use of rainwater catchment systems.

Instream Flow Status

The planning unit conducted an instream flow assessment, established a stream gauging network and collected data on seven streams of interest in the islands. Based on conclusions that most of these streams likely only provide food sources and/or shelter locations and little or no spawning activity, further instream flow work was discontinued by the planning unit. Ecology has done some preliminary instream flow analysis in support of processing pending surface water applications. Ecology is collecting more data and working with the applicants and planning unit to refine stream flow recommendations and identify ways to meet out-of-stream water needs.

Plan Web site: <http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/health/ehs.asp>

WRIA 3/WRIA 4 - Lower Skagit-Samish/Upper Skagit

Watershed Planning Phase: *The planning process was terminated. A draft watershed plan was completed for the Samish Basin in December 2004, but was not finalized or voted on by the Planning Unit.*

Optional Elements: *Instream Flows*

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$1,038,554

Instream Flow Progress

Watershed planning and instream flow efforts focused on the Samish sub-basin of WRIA 3. While the planning unit was able to complete a considerable amount of work on instream flow recommendations for the Samish sub-basin, it was unable to reach consensus and no final plan was approved. As a result, Ecology proceeded with rule-making to establish flows. In consultation with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the tribes, and using the technical work completed by the planning unit, Ecology developed recommendations for instream flows and closures. In 2004 Ecology drafted rule language, and established instream flow levels and associated policies to guide the protection and management of surface and groundwater resources in the sub-watershed. The draft language also created a reservation of water for domestic use. Ecology consulted with the tribes, local governments, other state agencies, and conducted a public open house, with the intent of proposing a rule in early 2005. A pending lawsuit and subsequent negotiations on the adjacent Skagit instream flow rule proposal caused work to be delayed in the Samish, until resolution is reached on the Skagit project. Subsequently, a revised Skagit rule amendment was proposed in October 2005. Adoption is expected in April, 2006. Ecology's intention is to propose the Samish rule when the work in the Skagit is completed.



WRIA 4 Upper Skagit

Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning

Instream Flow Progress

Ecology adopted an Instream Resources Protection Program (chapter 173-503 WAC) in 2001. In response to a lawsuit, Ecology proposed an amendment to that rule in 2005, to set aside some water for future out-of-stream uses. That proposed amendment was withdrawn, and a second amendment proposed (Amendment to WAC 173-503 Instream Resources Protection Program – Lower and Upper Skagit Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA 3 and 4)) on October 31, 2005.



The proposed rule amendment would set aside water for certain future uses, including agriculture, domestic, municipal, commercial/industrial, and stock watering.

Plan Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/skagitbasin.html>

WRIA 5 Stillaguamish



Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning

Instream Flow Status

In consultation with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the tribes, Ecology developed recommendations for instream flows and closures. Ecology adopted the Instream Resources Protection and Water Resources Program Rule (Chapter 173-505 WAC) in August 2005. The rule established instream flows for 32 rivers or streams in the basin, reserved a limited amount of ground water for future domestic use, reserved a limited amount of water for stock watering, established maximum limits for withdrawals from nine water sources, closed lakes and ponds to new diversions, (except for domestic use), and closed numerous rivers and streams to new uses unless the use qualifies under identified exceptions.

The rule was developed by the Department of Ecology in conjunction with the Stillaguamish River Implementation Review Committee (SIRC). SIRC committee members consisted of representatives from the Stillaguamish Indian Tribe, regional salmon recovery groups, federal and local governments.

Information on the Instream Resources Protection rule can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/archive/wac173505.html>

WRIA 6 Island



*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005.
Phase 4 begun August 2005*

Optional Elements: None

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$497,706

Island County adopted their Watershed Management Plan June 2005 and began the implementation phase in August. Some of their plan recommendations include: monitoring and protection for seawater intrusion-vulnerable areas; and local review of and “preprocessing” assistance to Ecology on new water right applications.

Instream Flow Status

WRIA 6 does not have instream flows set, and the planning unit did not recommend adoption of instream flows. Ecology has not scheduled instream flow activities in this watershed.

Plan Web site: <http://www.islandcounty.net/health/Envh/WRAC/WRAC%20Main.htm>

WRIA 7 Snohomish

Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning

Part of Central Puget Sound Regional Initiative.
Instream flows were set in 1979 (Chapter 173-507 WAC).



WRIA 8 Cedar-Sammamish

Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning

Part of Central Puget Sound Regional Initiative.
Instream flows were set in 1979 (Chapter 173-508 WAC).



WRIA 9 Duwamish-Green

Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning

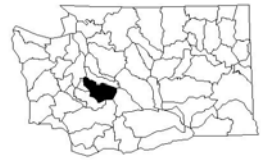
Part of Central Puget Sound Regional Initiative.
Instream flows were set in 1980 (Chapter 173-509 WAC).



WRIA 10 Puyallup-White

Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning

Part of Central Puget Sound Regional Initiative.
The basin was closed by rule in 1980 (Chapter 173-510 WAC).



WRIA 11 Nisqually



Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted in April 2004

Phase 4 begun November 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$648,533

Pierce, Thurston, and Lewis counties adopted the Nisqually Watershed Plan in April 2004, with the Nisqually Tribe acting as Lead agency. This was the first adopted watershed plan in the state. The planning group began Phase 4 implementation in November 2005. Some of their plan recommendations include: sub-basin processing of water right applications; ongoing instream flow work in the Mashel basin; additional efforts in water conservation, reuse, and reclamation.

Instream Flow Progress

Instream flows were set in 1981 (Chapter 173-511 WAC).

The plan addressed water quality, instream flows, and habitat, and made recommendations for statutory review of or changes to the Reclaimed Water Act, the exempt well provision and the Watershed Planning Act. The planning unit recommended existing closures should be maintained, unless new technical information suggests otherwise. It also recommended retaining instream flow levels in the Nisqually River, but doing more work on the Mashel River to improve stream flows and address the water supply needs of the town of Eatonville.

In 2005 Ecology completed IFIM studies for Mashel River, which included: hydrographs/exceedance curves, estimates of allocated water and actual water use, summary of habitat conditions, assessment of hydraulic continuity.

Plan Web site: <http://nisquallyriver.org/planning.html>

WRIA 12 Chambers/Clover



Watershed Planning Phase: The planning process was terminated.

The planning unit completed the final draft Watershed Management Plan in September 2004, but was unable to reach consensus agreement, with the Puyallup Tribe voting against plan approval.

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$588,372

Instream Flow Status

Instream flows were adopted by rule in 1979 (Chapter 173-512 WAC). Ecology does not plan to amend the existing rule.

WRIA 13 Deschutes



Watershed Planning Phase: *The planning process was terminated.*

The Watershed Planning Unit completed a final draft watershed plan in October 2004, but was unable to reach consensus agreement on the plan, with the Squaxin Island Tribe voting against plan approval.

Optional Elements: *Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$464,737

Instream Flow Status

The Deschutes Instream flows/closures are already in place, set in 1980 (Chapter 173-513 WAC). Ecology does not anticipate amending the existing rule.

WRIA 14 Kennedy/Goldsborough



Watershed Planning Phase: *Phase 3 — Plan and Instream Flow recommendations due December 2005*

Optional Elements: *Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$771,398

Instream Flow Progress

Instream flows were set in 1984 (Chapter 173-514 WAC). The planning unit is continuing its review of and negotiations on proposed amendments to the existing instream flow levels, with final recommendations anticipated in December 2005.

WRIA 15 Kitsap



Watershed Planning Phase: *The Planning Process was terminated in Phase 3. The Planning Unit completed a final draft watershed plan in June 2005, but was unable to reach consensus agreement on the plan, with the Squaxin Island Tribe voting against plan approval.*

Optional Elements: *Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$794,061

Instream Flow Status

Instream flows were set in 1981 (Chapter 173-515 WAC). Ecology does not intend amending the existing rule.

WRIA 16 Skokomish/Dosewallips



Watershed Planning phase: Phase 3— Watershed Plan and Instream Flow recommendations due December 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$680,000

Instream Flow Progress

Instream flow recommendations are due with the Watershed Plan in December 2005. The planning unit is expected to approve a plan, but to not make recommendations on instream flows. Ecology plans to initiate instream flow rule-development in 2007.

WRIA 17 Quilcene/Snow



Watershed Planning Phase: Plan Adopted January 2005

Phase 4 not yet begun

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$682,592

Jefferson County adopted the WRIA 17 Watershed Management Plan in January 2005. The planning group intends to complete instream flow rule making prior to beginning Phase 4 implementation. In addition to supporting additional work on instream flow setting, some of the plan recommendations include: ongoing surface and groundwater monitoring, support for water acquisition and conservation programs, and bringing illegal water users into compliance.

Instream Flow Progress

Although instream flow recommendations were not included in the approved plan, the planning unit, Ecology, and Department of Fish and Wildlife did agree on flow numbers for creeks and streams. Ecology prepared a draft instream flow protection rule that, in addition to establishing flow numbers, included measures to manage withdrawals of groundwater. Many of these streams support or have supported salmon. This area has a fairly low population, but is growing rapidly. There is concern that unregulated well drilling and use could further diminish stream flow and induce sea-water intrusion.

Ecology had planned to propose the rule in October 2005. At recent public workshops on the draft rule, numerous people had just become aware of the draft proposals for the first time, and expressed significant concerns about the draft rule language. Issues around the management of future groundwater withdrawals generated a great deal of controversy. As a result, Ecology has postponed rule making, and is working with the interest groups and stakeholders in the basin to develop a path forward that better meets mutual interests. Ecology's goal is to be able to build a system that supports local economies, communities and environmental resources.

Plan Web site: <http://wria17.co.jefferson.wa.us/>

WRIA 18 Elwha/Dungeness



Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005

Phase 4 not yet begun

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows, Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$736,098

The Clallam County Board of Commissioners adopted the Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan in June 2005. Phase 4 implementation planning is likely to begin in early 2006. In addition to instream flow recommendations, other plan recommendations include: developing a ground water reserve and management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ecology, ongoing and increased support for water acquisition and trust water programs, and exploring off-channel and aquifer storage.

Instream Flow Progress

Instream flow recommendations were developed for the Dungeness River and lower tributaries, Elwha River lower tributaries and several independent streams. These were included in the approved Watershed Plan. In conjunction with the instream flow recommendations, the Dungeness River Management Team identified the need to reserve, by rule, groundwater for future domestic needs in the Dungeness Watershed. The Elwha Morse Management Team discussions were less detailed but recognized potential problems with water availability and ground water development in the western portion of WRIA 18. Clallam County, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and Ecology held several discussions regarding the establishment and management of groundwater reservations for the Dungeness planning area. Those discussions have been extended to other members of the planning unit, and the public to a lesser degree, and much more extensive consultation and discussion will occur across WRIA 18 as part of rule development. Ecology planned to propose a rule in 2005, but the original schedule has been extended. Experience in the Quilcene Snow watershed (WRIA 17) and discussions during the plan adoption process have underscored the need for the additional work with the community. Ecology plans to work with the governments, planning unit, interest groups and public during 2006 and to propose a rule late in 2006 or 2007.

Plan Web site: http://www.clallam.net/environment/html/wria_18_draft_watershed_plan.htm

WRIA 19 Lyre/Hoko



Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 3–Watershed Plan and

Instream Flow recommendations due December 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$736,134

The WRIA 19 Planning Unit completed a final draft Watershed Plan that includes instream flow recommendations in November 2005. A public review draft may be available in December with final plan and planning unit vote on approval scheduled for December.

Instream Flow Progress

The Planning Unit agreed to instream flow numbers and plans to submit them to Ecology with completion of their final plan. Ecology intends to initiate rule development in 2007.

WRIA 20 Soleduck/Hoh



Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 3 - Watershed Plan and Instream Flow recommendations due December 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$563,316

The WRIA 20 Planning Unit is in the final stages of developing a draft watershed plan. Loss of lead agency staff has delayed completion, currently estimated to be mid-2006.

Instream Flow Progress

The Planning Unit intends to address instream flow recommendations but is not expected to include flow numbers. Ecology intends to initiate rule-making in 2007.

WRIA 21 Queets-Quinault

No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities



WRIA 22/23 Upper/Lower Chehalis



Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted May 2004

Phase 4 begun October 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$1,417,809

Boards of Commissioners from four counties, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, and Thurston, adopted the Chehalis Watershed Plan in May 2004. The planning unit initiated Phase 4 implementation in October 2005, with their detailed implementation plan due in one year. Some of their plan recommendations include: development of a water data management system, increased compliance efforts toward illegal water users, and additional incentives for water conservation and reclamation.

Instream Flow Status

Instream flows were set in 1976 (Chapter 173-522 WAC).

The Chehalis Partnership reviewed existing instream flows. Their findings, based on technical studies and existing data indicated that low-flow conditions may be a concern in many streams and rivers in the Chehalis Basin. Data indicate that stream flows are not met many days from July through October. The Partnership recommended that current regulatory flows should be retained, and regularly monitored. At this time, Ecology does not intend to propose amendments to the existing flow rule.

Plan Web site: http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/pub_svcs/ChehalisBasin/Index.html

WRIA 24 Willapa

No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities

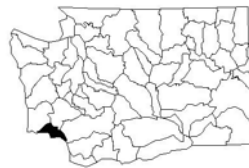


WRIA 25/26 Grays/Elochman/Cowlitz

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan approved by Planning Unit December 2004

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$1,175,000



The WRIA 25/26 Planning Unit completed and approved their watershed plan and instream flow recommendations in December 2004. The proposed plan is currently being reviewed by county governments for final approval. Final county action on the plan is anticipated in early to mid-2006.

Instream Flow Progress

The Planning Unit and Ecology agreed to instream flow numbers, reservation areas and size. Ecology initiated rule-making in 2005, and intends to propose rules in 2006.

Plan Web site: <http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us/default1.htm>

WRIA 27/28 Lewis/Salmon/Washougal

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan approved by Planning Unit December 2004

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$1,175,000



The WRIA 27/28 Planning Unit completed and approved their watershed plan and instream flow recommendations in December 2004. The proposed plan is currently being reviewed by county governments for final approval. Final county action on the plan is anticipated in early to mid-2006.

Instream Flow Progress

The Planning Unit and Ecology agreed to instream flow numbers, reservation areas and size. Ecology initiated rule-making in 2005, and intends to propose rules in 2006.

Plan Web site: <http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us/default1.htm>

WRIA 29 Wind/White Salmon

Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 3 — Plan due 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$500,000

The WRIA 29 Planning Unit is negotiating agreement of a final draft watershed plan, expected to be completed by December 2005. If approved and adopted, Phase 4 implementation would likely begin in early 2006. While instream flows were not included in the scope of the watershed plan, they remain a high priority in this watershed, and would likely be included in Phase 4.



WRIA 30 Klickitat

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan approved by Planning Unit May 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$697,751

The WRIA 30 Watershed Plan was completed and approved by the planning unit in May 2005. The proposed plan is currently being reviewed and considered by county governments for final approval and adoption. Final county action on the plan is anticipated in early 2006.



Instream Flow Status

No instream flows are set in this watershed. The planning unit elected not to undertake instream flows. Ecology does not anticipate adopting instream flow rules at this time.

WRIA 31 Rock-Glade

Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 2—Plan due October 2007

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$450,000

Phase 2 assessment work is continuing, with two years remaining before their plan is due.



Instream Flow Status

No instream flows are set in this watershed. The planning unit elected not to undertake instream flows. Ecology does not anticipate conducting any instream flow activities at this time.

WRIA 32 Walla Walla

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005

Phase 4 not yet begun

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows, Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$799,728



The Walla Walla Watershed Plan was adopted by Walla Walla and Columbia Counties in June 2005. Work is underway on Phase 4 implementation, with the final Phase 4 grant application expected to be completed in early 2006. A major element of their plan recommendations was for local responsibility and authority in water management decisions. To that end, Ecology, working in partnership with the local planning unit, has agreed to “pilot” an alternate approach.

Walla Walla Watershed (WRIA 32) Initiative

The basin was closed by rule in 1977 (Chapter 173-532 WAC).

The purpose of the Walla Walla Water Management Initiative is to demonstrate that significant improvements in instream flows and water availability for water users can be achieved through implementation of a combination of science-based plans, innovative and flexible water management tools, and collaboration among diverse groups. The objective is to establish a Walla Walla/Ecology water management partnership to enable the use of water management tools and strategies needed to improve instream flows, and improve certainty for water users. The partnership will provide administrative authority, and if necessary seek legislative authority to implement approved water management agreements.

Tasks to be completed include:

1. Adopt instream flow rule based on the watershed plan recommendation.
2. Identify administrative and statutory impediments to improved water management. Develop a set of administrative changes needed to provide flexibility and make informed water management decisions.
3. Identify and implement mechanisms to effectively protect instream flows, focusing first on the by-pass, and saved water from irrigation efficiency projects, then future flow improvement from storage and aquifer recharge.
4. Seek to address multiple legal or regulatory mandates (such as ESA and CWA) with a coordinated water management plan.
5. Hold forums, workshops, and meetings throughout the community, coordinated with the watershed planning unit, community college, the newly formed Center for Water and Environmental Studies.
6. Provide policy, technical and financial assistance to the planning unit and the various interests in the initiative.

Plan Web site: <http://www.wallawallawatershed.org>

WRIA 33 Lower Snake

No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities



WRIA 34 Palouse

Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 2/3 - Plan due Fall 2007

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$421,300



Phase 2 assessment work is continuing, with almost two years remaining before their plan is due.

Instream Flow Status

Ecology will consider rule-development when recommendations are received from the watershed planning group.

WRIA 35 Middle Snake

Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 2—Plan due Fall 2007

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$531,650



Phase 2 assessment work is continuing, with almost 2 years remaining before their plan is due.

Instream Flow Progress

Ecology will consider rule-making when recommendations are received from the Planning Unit.

Plan Web site: <http://www.asotinpud.org/msww/>

WRIA 36 Esquatzel Coulee

No instream flow or watershed planning activities



WRIA 37/38/39 Yakima/Naches



Watershed Planning Phase: Plan approved by Planning Unit December 2002

Plan adopted by counties November 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$1,806,968

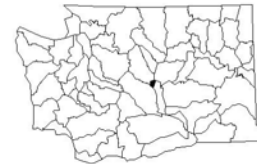
Almost three years after planning unit approval, boards of commissioners of three counties, Yakima, Benton, and Klickitat, approved and adopted the Yakima Basin Watershed Management Plan (Kittitas County “opted out” of final plan approval). The planning unit’s intent is to begin Phase 4 implementation immediately. While the plan contains no obligations for county or state agencies, it expresses a strong desire for continued and improved cooperation and coordination among local, state, federal and tribal governments for water management and salmon recovery.

Instream Flow Status

No instream flows are set in rule; however, target flows (enacted by Congress) and instream flow tribal treaty rights (affirmed by court) are in place in the Yakima Basin and both are managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Ecology anticipates no additional instream flow activities at this time.

Plan Web site: <http://www.co.yakima.wa.us/tricnty/watershedplan.htm>

WRIA 40a Stemilt-Squilchuck



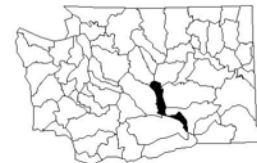
Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 2 – Plan due 2008

Optional Elements: Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$12,500

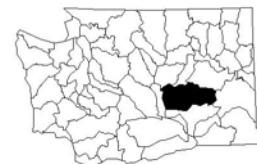
Phase 2 assessment work has just begun in WRIA 40a, with three years remaining before their plan is due. At this point, the planning unit has not elected to do instream flows.

WRIA 40b Alkali



No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities

WRIA 41 Lower Crab



No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities

WRIA 42 Grand Coulee

No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities



WRIA 43 Upper Crab-Wilson

Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 3 - Plan due November 2006

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows, Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$550,000



Instream Flow Progress

Instream flow studies have been completed and recommendations are expected with the Watershed Plan due in November 2006.

WRIA 44/50 Moses Coulee/Foster Creek

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted November 2004

Phase 4 begun February 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$1,424,995



The final WRIA 44/50 Watershed Management Plan was approved and adopted by boards of commissioners from Douglas and Grant Counties in November 2004. Completion of the detailed implementation plan is scheduled for February 2006. In addition to reaching agreement on instream flow recommendations, other plan recommendations included: support for a Trust Water Rights Program, further exploration of potential water storage projects, and continued monitoring of surface and ground water quality.

Instream Flow Progress

Flow recommendations from the WRIA 44/50 Planning Unit were received with the final Watershed Plan in November 2004. The planning unit will also be considering three additional instream flows recommendations during 2006. Ecology anticipates initiating rule development in 2006.

Plan Web site: http://www.fostercreek.net/WRIA44-50_Final_Watershed_Plan.pdf

WRIA 45 Wenatchee

Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 3—Plan due 2006

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$584,542



The planning unit is nearing the final stages in development of their watershed plan and instream flow recommendations, due in mid- 2006.

Instream Flow Progress

Instream flows were set in 1983 (Chapter 173-545 WAC). Ecology will consider rule-development when recommendations are received.

Plan Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/45.html>

WRIA 46 Entiat

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted September 2004

Phase 4 begun February 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$566,000



The Entiat Watershed Management Plan became the first watershed plan in the state to include instream flow recommendations when it was adopted by the Chelan County Board of Commissioners in September 2004. Other recommendations in the plan include development of water conservation, water acquisition, and trust water rights programs and ongoing and increased water quality monitoring. Phase 4 implementation is underway, with their detailed implementation plan due in early 2006.

Instream Flow Status

Ecology adopted Chapter 173-546 WAC - Water Resources Management Program -- Entiat River Basin Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 46 in August 2005

Plan Web site: <http://www.chelancd.org/watershed.htm>

WRIA 47 Chelan

No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities



WRIA 48 Methow

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan Adopted June 2005

Phase 4 application pending



Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$1,073,820

Okanogan County Commissioners approved and adopted the final Methow Watershed Plan in June 2005 with the intent to begin Phase 4 implementation before the close of 2005. Plan recommendations included a review of and additional work to support an amendment to the existing instream flow rule; protection for ground water recharge from unlined irrigation ditches; and relaxation of the water relinquishment statute.

Instream Flow Progress

Instream flows were set in 1976 (Chapter 173-548 WAC). The planning unit and Ecology have agreed that the rule will be revisited subsequent to submittal of new, adequate data.

Plan Web site: <http://okanogancounty.org/water/watershed%20planning;%20methow.htm>

WRIA 49 Okanogan

Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 2 - Plan due 2009

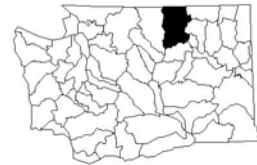
Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$250,000

The planning unit has recently completed Phase 1 and is beginning Phase 2 assessment work, with 4 years remaining until their final watershed plan is due.

Instream Flow Status

Instream flows were set in 1976 (Chapter 173-549 WAC).



WRIA 51 Nespelem

No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities



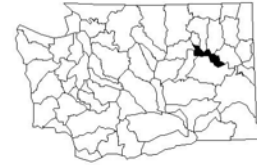
WRIA 52 Sanpoil

No instream flow or watershed planning activities



WRIA 53 Lower Lake Roosevelt

No instream flow or watershed planning activities



WRIA 54 Lower Spokane

Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 2 - Plan due September 2009

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Instream Flows, Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$50,000



The planning unit has recently completed Phase 1 and is beginning Phase 2 assessment work, with 4 years remaining until their final watershed plan and instream flow recommendations are due.

Instream Flow Progress

Ecology will consider rule-making when recommendations are received from the Planning Unit.



WRIA 55/57 Little/Middle Spokane

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan approved by Planning Unit July 2005

Optional Elements: Instream Flows, Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$1,367,279

The WRIA 55/57 Planning Unit completed and approved a final watershed plan in July 2005 and submitted it to Spokane, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties for final review and approval.

Instream Flow Progress

Instream flows were set in 1976 for WRIA 55 (Chapter 173-555 WAC). No instream flows are set in WRIA 57. The planning unit has agreed to make an instream flow recommendation when identified data needs have been satisfied. Instream flow data collection is expected to be completed during Phase 4. Ecology plans to work on developing an instream flow rule in this basin in conjunction with planning unit recommendations, likely in 2007.

Plan Web site: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/Home.asp>

WRIA 56 Hangman



Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted September 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows, Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$793,416

Spokane and Whitman Counties approved and adopted the final WRIA 56 Watershed Management Plan in September 2005 and intend to begin Phase 4 implementation in early 2006. Some of the plan recommendations include: strategies to address compliance and enforcement of water rights and claims; evaluating policies to limit the maximum daily withdrawal of domestic exempt wells to less than 5000 gallons per day; additional gauging and monitoring of both surface and ground water; and changing water right source from surface to ground water where feasible.

Instream Flow Progress

The planning unit completed a hydrological investigation to evaluate instream flow conditions primarily for fisheries. Flow recommendations were developed for three levels of habitat protection, however, the planning unit did not reach consensus on all elements of a recommendation for a minimum stream flow. The data and progress were submitted to Ecology. Ecology intends to initiate rule development in collaboration with the planning unit in 2006.

Plan Web site: [Hangman \(Latah\) Creek Watershed Planning Project](#)

WRIA 58 Middle Lake Roosevelt



No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities

WRIA 59 Colville



Watershed Planning Phase: Plan Adopted November 2004

Phase 4 begun March 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Storage

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$729,161

Stevens County adopted the Colville Watershed Management Plan in November 2004 and began Phase 4 implementation shortly thereafter. One of their implementation activities is to conduct additional stream flow studies to support modifying the existing stream closures in the basin. They also recommended establishing a water master position and recently submitted a formal request to Ecology to conduct a stream adjudication.

Instream Flow progress

Instream flows and stream closures were set in 1977 (Chapter 173-559 WAC). The plan calls for additional flow studies to support possible opening of some of the closures. Ecology is working closely with the watershed planning group on instream flow issues.

Plan Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/59.html>

WRIA 60 Kettle

Watershed Planning Phase: Discontinued at completion of Phase 2

Optional Elements: Instream Flows

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$264,900

In 2004 the Kettle Planning Unit voted to discontinue their planning effort at the end of Phase 2, and not move forward into Phase 3 plan development. Ecology does not plan to conduct additional studies or to propose instream flow rules in the current biennium.



WRIA 61 Upper Lake Roosevelt

No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities



WRIA 62 Pend Oreille

Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005

Phase 4 begun September 2005

Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat

Watershed Planning Grant funds awarded/spent through June 2005: \$497,706

Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners adopted the WRIA 62 Watershed Management Plan in June 2005 and began Phase 4 implementation shortly thereafter. One of the plan recommendations is to conduct instream flow studies during the implementation phase, currently underway. Other recommendations included providing incentives for voluntary relinquishment of water rights and relaxing the relinquishment statute from five years to 20 years.



Instream Flow Progress

No instream flows are set in WRIA 62. A joint local/state effort is underway in Phase 4 to conduct instream flow studies. Ecology is providing technical and grant assistance but does not currently have rule making scheduled in this basin.

Plan Web site: <http://www.pocd.org/wria.html>

Appendices

- A. Watershed Planning Status Map**
- B. Capital Budget Funding Available to Local Government**
- C. Watershed Names and WRIA Numbers**
- D. Description of watershed planning phases**
- E. Workload Activities Recommended from 14 Approved Plans**
- F. Instream Flow Map**
- G. Instream Flow Rule-Making Targets**

[illegible]

Appendix B. Capital Budget Funding Available to Local Government

| | FY 03-05 Biennium | FY 05-07 Biennium |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Water supply | \$6,300,000 | \$7,200,000 |
| Drought preparedness | \$1,700,000 | \$6,500,000 |
| Water right acquisitions | \$1,500,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| Irrigation efficiencies | \$2,500,000 | \$3,500,000 |
| Water storage | \$7,400,000 | \$2,300,000 |
| Water conveyance infrastructure | \$5,800,000 | \$3,800,000 |
| Metering | \$2,700,000 | \$1,500,000 |
| Total | \$27,900,000 | \$25,800,000 |

Appendix C. Watershed Names and WRIA Numbers

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Nooksack (WRIA 1) | Klickitat (WRIA 30) |
| San Juan (WRIA 2) | Rock Glade (WRIA 31) |
| Lower/Upper Skagit-Samish (WRIA 3/4) | Walla Walla (WRIA 32) |
| Island (WRIA 6) | Palouse (WRIA 34) |
| Snohomish (WRIA 7) | Middle Snake (WRIA 35) |
| Nisqually (WRIA 11) | Lower/Upper Yakima/Naches (WRIA 37/39/38) |
| Chambers-Clover (WRIA 12) | Stemilt-Squilchuck (WRIA 40a) |
| Deschutes (WRIA 13) | Upper Crab/Wilson (WRIA 43) |
| Kennedy-Goldsborough (WRIA 14) | Moses Coulee/Foster (WRIA 44/50) |
| Kitsap (WRIA 15) | Wenatchee (WRIA 45) |
| Skokomish-Dosewallips (WRIA 16) | Entiat (WRIA 46) |
| Quilcene-Snow (WRIA 17) | Methow (WRIA 48) |
| Elwha-Dungeness (WRIA 18) | Okanogan (WRIA 49) |
| Lyre-Hoko (WRIA 19) | Lower Spokane (WRIA 54) |
| Sol Duc-Hoh (WRIA 20) | Little/Middle Spokane (WRIA 55/57) |
| Lower/Upper Chehalis (WRIA 22/23) | Hangman (WRIA 56) |
| Grays-Elochoman/Cowlitz (WRIA 25/26) | Colville (WRIA 59) |
| Lewis/Salmon-Washougal (WRIA 27/28) | Kettle (WRIA 60) |
| Wind-White Salmon (WRIA 29) | Pend Oreille (WRIA 62) |

Appendix D: Description of watershed planning phases

Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW is structured according to the following:

Phase 1: Organization, start-up

Phase 2: Technical Assessment

 Putting existing data to work

 Short-term collection of new data

 Long-term data collection and monitoring

Phase 3: Plan Development

Phase 4: Implementation

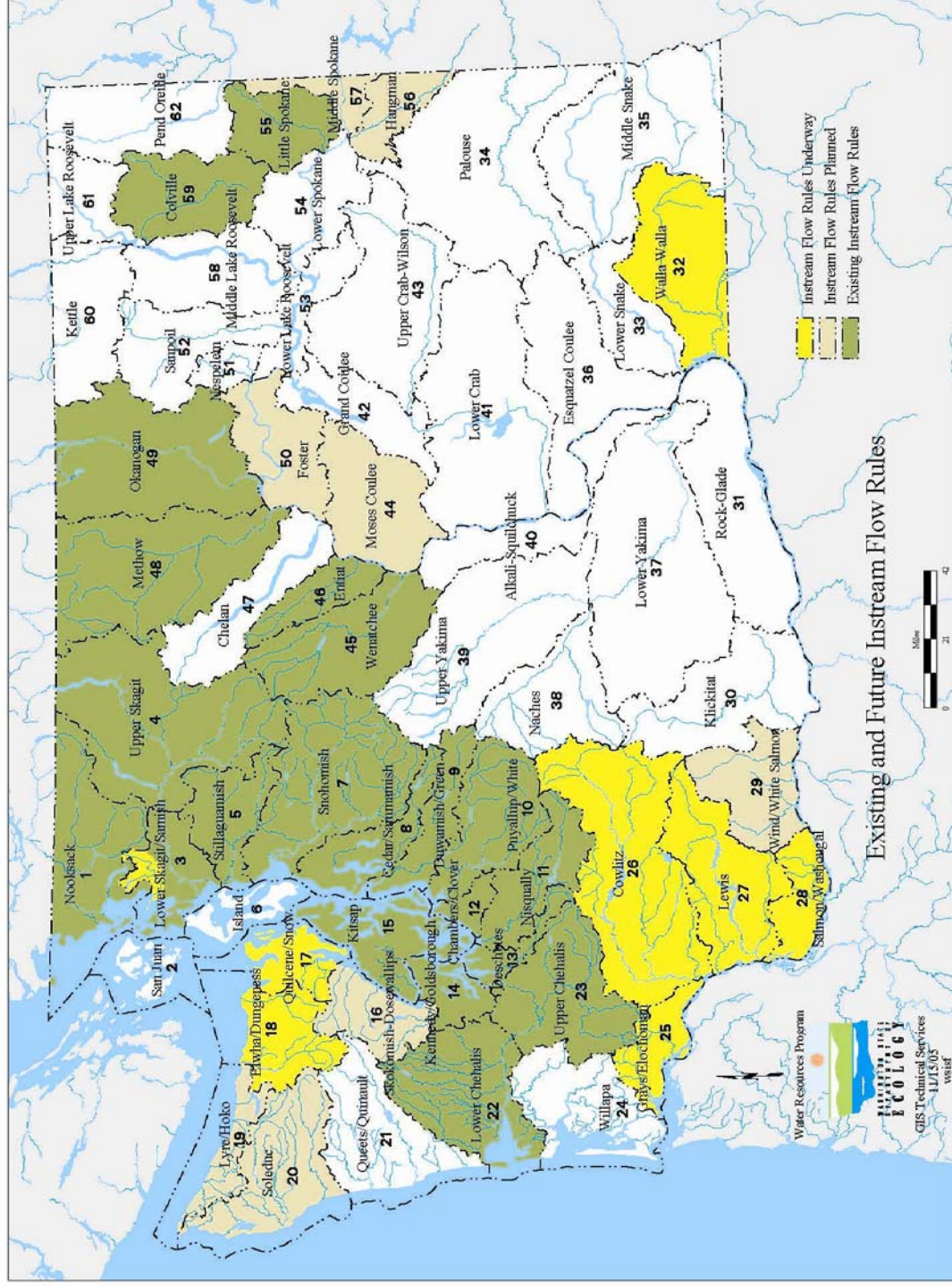
The only required element of planning under Ch. 90.82 RCW is water quantity:

“Watershed planning under this chapter shall address water quantity in the management area by undertaking an assessment of water supply and use in the management area and developing strategies for future use.” (RCW 90.82.070) Optional components are instream flows, water quality and habitat.

Appendix E. Workload Activities Recommended from Approved Plans

| | Dev/Amend/Set Flows/other Rules | Water Right Processing/Permitting | Enforcement/Compliance | Adjudicate water rights | Provide water resources data/info | Conservation//Efficiency/Acquisition | Stream gauging/Surface Water Monitoring | Ground Water Studies/Monitoring/tech support | Water Quality Monitoring | Municipal Water Rights | Other |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| NWRO | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WRIA1 Nooksack | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | Dev pilot program |
| WRIA 2 San Juan | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| WRIA 6 Island | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| SWRO | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WRIA 11 Nisqually | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| WRIA 17 Quilcene Snow | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| WRIA 18 Elwha-Dungeness | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | MOU/GW reserve |
| WRIA 22/23 Chehalis | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| CRO | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WRIA 44/50 Moses/Foster | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | Storage |
| WRIA 46 Entiat | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Storage, Salmon, TA |
| WRIA 48 Methow | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | |
| ERO | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WRIA 32 Walla Walla | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | Dev pilot program, ASR |
| WRIA 56 Hangman | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| WRIA 59 Colville | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| WRIA 62 Pend Oreille | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |

Appendix F. Instream Flow map



Appendix G.: Instream Flow Rule-Making Targets

Instream Flow Rule-Making Targets

| WRIA | Pre-Proposal | Mar 05 - Jul 05 | Aug 05 | Oct 05 - March 06 | Apr 06 - Jun 06 | Jul 06 - Sept 06 | Oct 06 - Dec 06 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Instream Flow Rule-making in process | | | | | | | |
| Skagit 4 | ✓ | Proposed | | | | | |
| Stillaguamish 5 | ✓ | Proposed | Adopted | | Adopt | | |
| Entiat 46 | ✓ | Proposed | Adopted | | | | |
| Quilcene Snow 17 | ✓ | | Rule Development Work with communities and public | | | | |
| Dungeness Elwha 18 | ✓ | | Rule Development Work with communities and public | | | | |
| Grays/Elochoman 25 | ✓ | | Rule Development Work with communities and public | | | | |
| Cowlitz 26 | ✓ | | Rule Development Work with communities and public | | | | |
| Lewis 27 | ✓ | | Rule Development Work with communities and public | | | | |
| Salmon Washougal 28 | ✓ | | Rule Development Work with communities and public | | | | |
| Walla Walla 32 | ✓ | | Rule Development Work with communities and public | | | | |
| Samish 3 | ✓ | | Rule Development Work with communities and public | | | | |
| Moses Coulee 44 | | | | | Initiate | | |
| Foster 50 | | | | | Initiate | | |

| Instream Flow Rule-making Planned | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Initiate Rule Development |
| Wind/White Salmon 29 | 2006 |
| Hangman 56 | 2006 |
| Middle Spokane 57 | 2006 |
| Dosewallips 16 | 2007 |
| Lyre Hoko 19 | 2007 |
| Sol Duc 20 | 2007 |